

## From the corner: Learning to listen



Our Office places a high value on teamwork. Good teamwork requires good communication and good communication requires the ability to listen.

A recent article by nationally syndicated columnist Ruben Navarrette provides sound advice on the importance of learning to listen and suggests that we consciously work on becoming better listeners.

Mr. Navarrette advises that good listening is work. "You have to be present, aware and mindful to be good at listening." He reminds us that until we have mastered the six basic elements of listening—hearing, understanding, remembering, interpreting, evaluating, and responding—we are not communicating with one another. Our short attention spans and our tendency to multitask aided and abetted by our omnipresent electronic devices impede our ability to listen.

We encourage you to work on your listening skills to be better communicators at both work and home.

You can read the full article [here](#).

— Vince

# Happy Anniversary!

**Thank you for your service to the public:**

Laura Cahill	17 years	Lucinda Martinez	5 years
Angie Craven	17 years	Cheryl Thornton	3 years
Sumpter Frazier	11 years	Tammy Fugate	2 years
Larry Fox	5 years		

## Bruce Mosier honored at State Bar Annual Meeting

Assistant County Attorney Bruce Mosier was honored for 50 years of practice at the State Bar of Texas' Annual Meeting on June 27 in Austin. ACA Mosier's milestone was recently lauded in a [Houston Chronicle](#) story about his personal and professional accomplishments.

When he isn't making headlines or garnering awards, ACA Mosier leads a 12-piece senior show band.

He is pictured here with friend Walter Jefferson, also a 50 year honoree, at a reception that preceded the Annual Meeting luncheon.

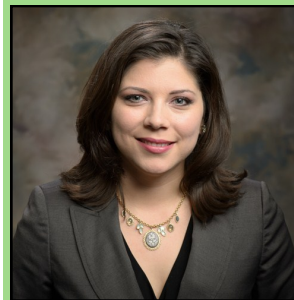


The [Harris County Attorney's Office](#) and [Law Library](#) are now on



## Environment and Infrastructure Group

### In the News



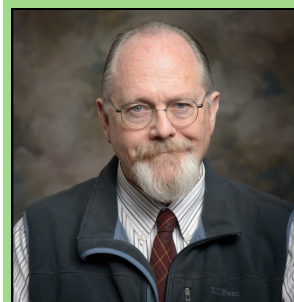
Jennifer Fox

Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Fox appeared in [Channel 11](#) and [Univision](#) reports in response to a petition filed by our Office against Texas Industrial Box Maintenance, a company that cleans tanks and containers used in the transportation and storage of chemicals and regulated waste. The petition states the company allowed unauthorized air emissions, accepted chemical waste without a permit and allowed chemical waste to flow into the waterways.

An interview with Assistant County Attorney Lauren Hudson about a suit filed by our Office against Kroger aired on [News 92 FM](#) on July 1. The lawsuit claims the smell of rotting garbage at the two Kroger stores was so bad, it violated the Texas Clean Air Act and the Solid Waste Disposal Act. Kroger was not emptying the compactor once a week as required by law and racked up four County-issued citations in five months.



Lauren Hudson



Rock Owens

On July 2, our Office filed suit against 10 companies responsible for the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The suit is intended to compensate Harris County for the economic losses that resulted from the spill. Managing Attorney Rock Owens was quoted by the [Houston Chronicle](#): "If we don't bring it (the lawsuit), who's going to make up the differences in the taxes to run our government? It's going to be the individual tax payer, and they shouldn't have to pay for that loss."

## Connect5 Five questions for Lucinda Martinez



Lucinda Martinez is a paralegal in the Compliance Practice Group. She has been with our Office since 2009.

**What book would you recommend?**

The Way of the Shepherd: 7 Ancient Secrets to Managing Productive People by Dr. Kevin Leman and William Pentak

**What was your favorite TV show in High School?**

Sanford & Son

**What's your favorite hobby?** Arts & Crafts

**Are you a cat person or a dog person?** I like little dogs.

**What's on your bucket list?** I would like to visit Ireland.





*WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE HARRIS COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, BOTH LAWYERS AND NON-LAWYERS, ADHERE TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL ETHICS AS WE SERVE THE PEOPLE OF HARRIS COUNTY AND STRIVE TO BE THE BEST PUBLIC LAW FIRM IN THE UNITED STATES.*



## Useful Links

County Attorney [SharePoint](#)  
County Attorney [Policy Manual](#)  
County Personnel [Regulations](#)

County Attorney [Website](#)  
Payroll Reports & Benefits [Online](#)  
County Attorney [Directory](#)

## Coming Attractions

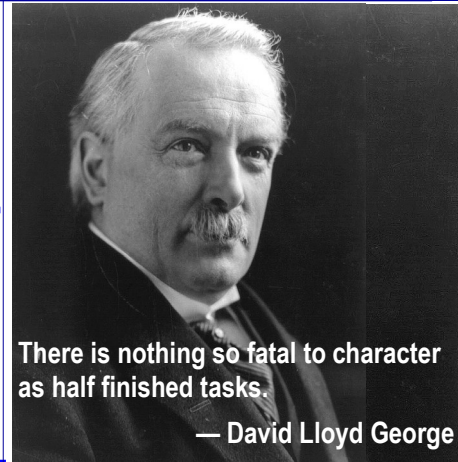
### North Harris County Bar Association Meeting

**When:** Thursday, July 10 at noon

**Where:** Golden Corral Buffet, 13145 Northwest Fwy.

**Speaker:** Commissioner R. Jack Cagle

**1 hour CLE and 1 hour Ethics**



**There is nothing so fatal to character as half finished tasks.**

— David Lloyd George

## In a flash: Cedric Loeb gets quick plea to jurisdiction



Assistant County Attorney Cedric Loeb was able to get a plea to the jurisdiction granted in less than one minute. No word yet one whether this is an Office record, but in recognition of his in-a-flash efforts, Managing Attorney Melissa Spinks crafted a celebratory door decoration, complete with a flashing star.

## Victor Almendarez takes new position as court coordinator

Paralegal Victor Almendarez will be leaving our Office to serve as Coordinator of the 311th Family District Court. Victor has worked for the County Attorney's Office since 2001, primarily in the Children's Protective Services division.

"I leave this office after 13 great years of employment with the County Attorney's Office," Almendarez said. Protective Services Office Manager Curtrina Majors said he will be missed by his colleagues who wish him the best of luck.



**Victor Almendarez**

FranShameka Blackman will join the 315th District Court team as the paralegal assigned to Michelle Moore. Reginald Thomas will join the 313th District Court team as an administrative assistant.

## State Bar adds Fastcase and Casemaker as benefits

The State Bar of Texas has signed an agreement to provide its members free access to Fastcase, one of the nation's most popular legal research systems. Texas attorneys will also receive expanded premium Casemaker services at no cost.



The agreement provides State Bar members access to Fastcase's legal research tools, tutorials, mobile apps, and live customer support. The free member benefit has no restrictions on time or number of transactions and includes unlimited printing, unlimited reference assistance, and unlimited customer service.

Casemaker's expanded offerings include access to premium services (Casecheck+, CiteCheck, and CasemakerDigest) at no cost. Casemaker continues to provide the Administrative Code, Attorney General Opinions from 1947, Texas Case Law since 1886, State Constitution, Federal Court Rules, Texas Session Laws from 1995, State Court Rules, Texas Revised Statutes, including annual archived versions since 2001, and a robust federal library.

Casecheck+ is a negative citator system built into Casemaker that validates your research and identifies whether your case law citations are still good law. CiteCheck allows researchers to upload a brief (or other document) to Casemaker which quickly creates a table of the cases found, checks the latter case history of the cases cited, and displays any negative later case history. Casemaker has also added its new Subsequent History feature especially for Texas attorneys. At a glance, researchers can now determine writ and petition history.

## In the Spotlight

### Introducing the HCAO's summer interns

**Pulkit Moudgil**

Pulkit Moudgil is a rising 2L at South Texas College of Law. He is interning in our Litigation Practice Group, working specifically on eminent domain issues. Pulkit attended Texas A&M University where he earned a bachelors degree in Political Science and played an active role in student government. During his time at A&M, Pulkit served as the charter member of Beta Chi Theta Fraternity and raised more than \$6,000 as the philanthropy chair of the Indian Students Association. Pulkit will work as a judicial intern in the Fort Bend County Court at Law for the second half of his summer. Upon graduation from law school, he hopes to become a litigator who specializes in energy law.

## BEAR Christmas in July School Supply Drive for kids in CPS care

**When:** Friday, July 25 at 2 p.m.

**Where:** The Mike Driscoll Courtroom

**RSVP:** [Debbie.Dillard@cao.hctx.net](mailto:Debbie.Dillard@cao.hctx.net)

